

Ephesians 6:10-24

Week 11 - Armor Of God: God's Protection, Our Action

Ephesians 6:10-24 (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

²¹ Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. ²² I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

²³ Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

? Paul begins the final thoughts of his letter saying "Finally." In David Guzik's commentary, he highlights that this use of "Finally" is synonymous with "In Light Of." As we wrap up our study of Ephesians, think of the big takeaways from your small group discussions throughout this study. How might you approach this passage and the armor of God "in light of" Ephesians as a whole?

? Why might Paul have chosen to talk about the armor of God in the last chapter of Ephesians, right before his sign off?

? Verse 10 encourages us to “be strong in the Lord.” What does this look like? Generally, how does the armor of God help us here?

? How might verses 18-19 help you be stronger in the Lord?

? Verse 12 highlights the real enemies we struggle against. Why is it important to know your enemy?

The armor of God referenced here in Ephesians is taken from passages in Isaiah (11:5, 49:2, 59:17) that explain the Messiah’s armor.

“Now as the messiah’s followers we need to make the attributes of the king our own since we make up His body”
- The Bible Project.

? What people, or parts of culture, are treated as enemies today? What’s at the heart of this conflict?

? How should the way Christian’s battle look different from the way the rest of the world battles?

? We aren’t equipped with the armor of God automatically. We choose to put it on (verse 13). How do you “put on” each item in the armor of God?

Design Your Armor Plan

Fill in the following chart. What spiritual disciplines could assist you in putting on the armor of God? What are the enemies' tactics that make it difficult to do so?

Armor of God	Enemies' Tactics/Attacks	Armor's Purpose	Dressing/Cultivating Strategy
Belt of truth			
Breastplate of righteousness			
Shoes of readiness from the gospel of peace			
Shield of faith			
Helmet of salvation			

? The sword is an offensive weapon. How can the word of God be used offensively? How can we do so responsibly?

For Discussion And Accountability

? Consider the spiritual disciplines we just talked about. What are 1 or 2 you could practice this week? How can we, as your small group, encourage you in this?

? During your next conflict, how can you stop and remind yourself of the true enemy?